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REPORT

OF THE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE.

AT

WINDSOR, CONN.,

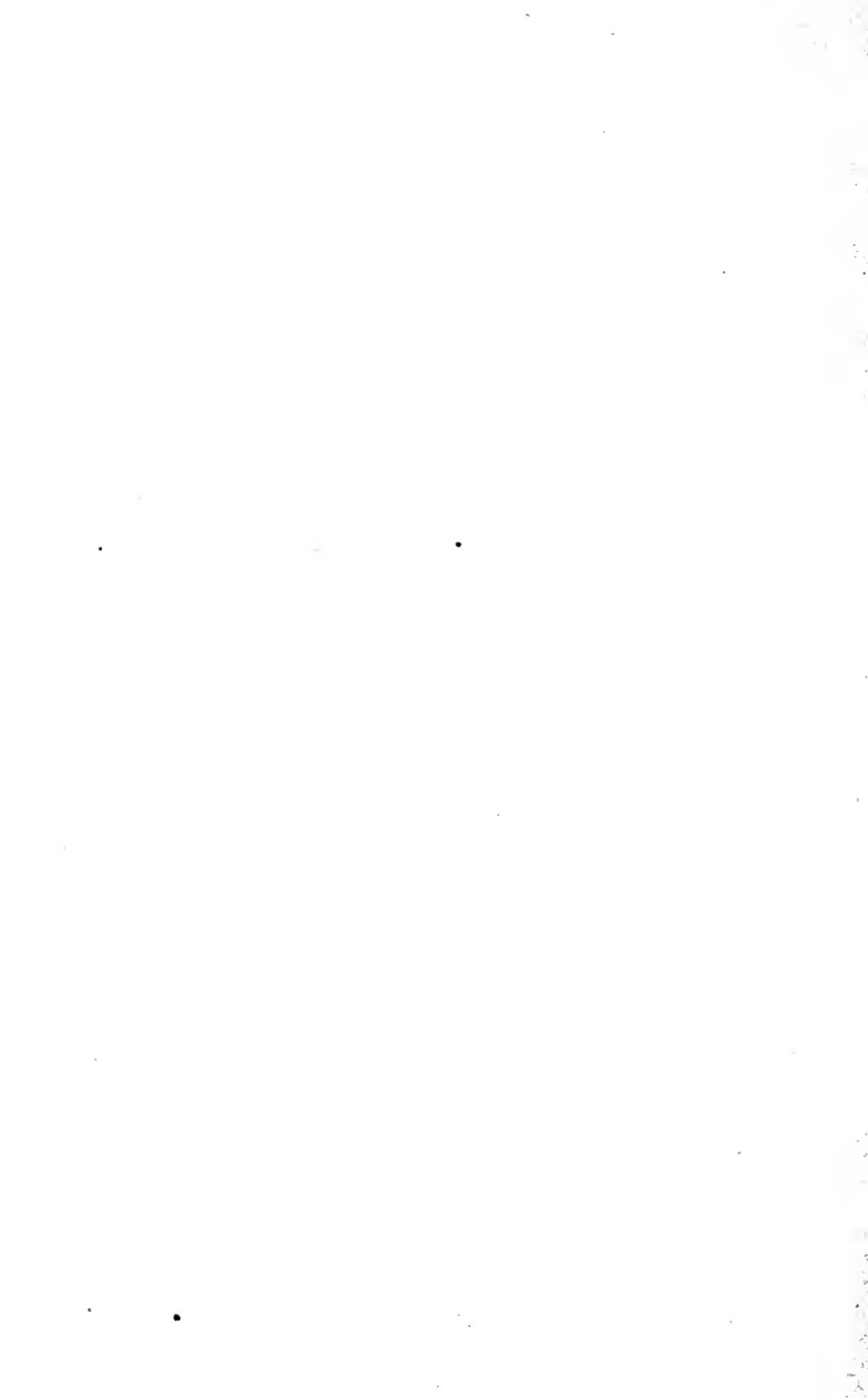
JULY 4, 1876.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

HARTFORD:

PRESS OF THE CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD COMPANY.

1876.



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REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The desire to properly observe the Centennial Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, seems to have animated the citizens of Windsor in all sections of the town. It was felt to be Windsor's duty to herself to celebrate the occasion in such a manner as should be creditable to the oldest town in the State of Connecticut—the home of the "friend of Washington," and of numerous others who bore a distinguished part in maintaining the Declaration, and in giving character and stability to our present form of government.

The residents of the Rainbow and Poquonock section of the town, having resolved to suitably observe the day, generously proposed to unite with all of the inhabitants of the town in a general celebration of the occasion, at such a place in the town as might be selected for the purpose.

Private consultation resulted in calling a public meeting to consider the matter, and to take such action as should be considered consonant with the public feeling. This meeting was presided over by E. S. Clapp, Esq., of Windsor, and Thomas Duncan, Esq., of Poquonock, served as secretary. It was largely attended by the prominent and influential men of the place, and, with no dissenting voices, it was voted to adopt the proposal of the Rainbow and the Poquonock brethren, and to extend an invitation to all the inhabitants of the town, irrespective of color, age, condition, or peculiarity of political and religious opinion, to join in a grand Centennial Picnic on Broad street Green.

The Hons. H. Sidney Hayden and Thomas W. Loomis, Timothy S. Phelps, Richard D. Case, and Thomas Duncan, Esqs., were appointed as a general committee of arrangements,

to prepare for and carry out the manifest wish of the meeting. A sub-committee of one from each school district was appointed to assist the general committee. This committee was constituted as follows, viz :

For District No. 1, Oliver P. Mills; No. 2, Walter W. Loomis; No. 3, Eli P. Ellsworth; No. 4, Strong H. Barber; No. 5, Samuel A. Wilson; No. 6, Edward L. Smith; No. 7, George W. Barnes; No. 8, Eugene Brown; No. 9, George Dresser; No. 10, George L. Hodge.

At the first meeting of the general committee they resolved upon issuing the following card of invitation to each family of the town, and to such of its former residents and their descendants, now living in other places, as might desire to join with them in suitably honoring the day in this old "mother of towns."

CARD OF INVITATION.

WINDSOR,

THE OLDEST TOWN IN CONNECTICUT.

**CENTENNIAL PICNIC ON BROAD STREET GREEN,
JULY 4TH, 1876, AT 11 A. M.**

All the inhabitants of Windsor are hereby requested to join in rendering suitable testimonial in honor of the coming Fourth of July.

We remember gratefully our noble heritage; the first page of one hundred years proves its value.

*Committee
of
Arrangements.* { H. SIDNEY HAYDEN, THOMAS W. LOOMIS,
T. S. PHELPS, R. D. CASE, THOMAS DUNCAN.

These cards were directed to ladies and gentlemen of the towns of Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, East Windsor, South Windsor, and Ellington, all of which are now thriving towns, incorporated from the territorial limits of ancient Windsor.

Special invitations to be present were likewise sent President Grant, and to Gov. Hayes, of Ohio, the ancestors of both

of whom lived in this town. Similar invitations were likewise sent to other distinguished representatives of Windsor, now living in other States.

In anticipation of the large numbers who would avail themselves of the privilege of honoring the day and the town, by their presence here on the great day of the centuries, the General Committee of Arrangements, in order to properly receive and entertain them, made the following assignment of duties to the different gentlemen, viz:

Committee on Erection of Tents, Tables, Seats, &c.—Timothy S. Phelps.

Committee on Provisions, Drinks, Crockery, &c.—H. S. Hayden, Thomas Duncan.

Committee on Music.—R. D. Case.

Committee on Finance.—The sub-committees of the various districts.

Committee on Invitations.—T. W. Loomis.

Committee on Ringing Bells.—Thomas Maud, George Terry, William Hills.

Committee on Firing of Cannon.—Col. E. N. Phelps.

They likewise adopted the following order of exercises for the day.

PROGRAMME.

ORDER OF EXERCISES CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

Broad Street Green, Windsor, July 4th, 1876.

NATIONAL SALUTE of 13 guns on Plymouth Meadow, at sunrise.

MUSIC,—“Hail Columbia.”

INVOCATION,—Rev. B. Judkins.

MUSIC,—“Old Hundred.”

READING DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,—H. L. Soper, Esq.

MUSIC,—“Yankee Doodle.”

HISTORICAL ADDRESS,—J. H. Hayden, Esq.

MUSIC.

POEM,—Rev. R. H. Tuttle.

MUSIC.

DINNER.

BLESSING INVOKED,—Rev. G. C. Wilson.

MUSIC—MUSIC.

ORATOR OF THE DAY,—Lieut.-Gov. George G. Sill.

MUSIC.

ADDRESS,—Hon. T. C. Coogan.

MUSIC.

Reading of Letters and short Addresses, from our own citizens and invited guests.

A march is proposed to Cemetery and Palisado.

FIREWORKS on the Green in the evening.

Marshal of the Day,—E. S. CLAPP.

The labor of the committee on the erection of tents, &c., considerably exceeded that of the other committees; but Mr. Phelps was equal to the demand that was made upon him. Availing himself of the voluntary assistance of several citizens whose hearts were in the work, the 14,000 feet of lumber, generously placed at the disposal of the committee of arrangements by Mr. H. Tudor White, was soon made to assume shapes of convenience and comfort for the large number who were expected to be present. A large frame structure 80 feet in length and 40 feet in breadth, canopied with canvas belonging to the M. E. Church, was comfortably fitted with seats for more than one thousand persons. A large platform, the entire width of the building and fifteen feet deep, was arranged for the officers of the day, the speakers, and musicians. Numerous seats under convenient shades, were likewise fitted for the accommodation of all who chose to be seated.

Tables, more than two thousand feet in length, besides side tables, were arranged for the reception of the result of the labors of the provision committee, whose calls for contributions of food, through the sub-committees, were generously responded to by the ladies in all sections of the town.

The following gentlemen gave their assistance to Mr. Phelps in the erection of tents, &c., viz:

Eli Francis, Timothy Loomis, Lucien Loomis, Walter W. Loomis, Edmund Loomis, Simeon Loomis, Henry A. Halsey, E. S. Clapp, John Noonan, Hezekiah Mack, James Reynolds, Charles Lord, Frank Case, Elisha C. Andrus, Dwight T.

Phelps, Archibald S. McManamon, James McCormick, John Hamilton, John Rooke, George W. Blake, Wm. Horace Bower, H. Tudor White, Stephen Teft, Strong H. Barber, Isaac Whiton, Willie Ware, Martin Cairnes, John Howard, Albert Fuller, Hiram Shannon, Steven Norris, Daniel Carroll, John A. Brnee, F. F. Curry, John Carrier, Ellsworth Barker, John Kenyon, Charles Elliott, George Osborne, George P. Farr, and possibly some others.

The committee on music engaged the Windsor Cornet Band to furnish instrumental music. The band is composed of the following members, viz: Daniel W. Mack, *Leader*; William Horace Bower, Dwight T. Phelps, Henry E. Phelps, Timothy S. Loomis, Horace H. Ellsworth, William H. Filley, William S. Marks, Martin Palmer, 2d, Roswell Clapp, Charles E. Elliott, Fred. W. Mack, Edward A. Bates.

The Drum and Fife Band, composed of the following members, viz: Joel Palmer, Charles Palmer, J. Shelby Clark, Horton Clark, Charles Griswold, and Edwin Griswold, were engaged, and accompanied the Poquonock and Rainbow train of carriages to Windsor.

Capt. John Parker was likewise engaged to make arrangements for vocal music. The band and the choir, composed of the united choirs of the various churches of the town, each contributed largely to the success of the celebration, in the pleasure their efforts afforded.

Mr. James McCormick was appointed to receive and arrange upon the extensive tables, the large contributions of food, as it was delivered to him by the willing and generous donors. In this labor he was assisted by Messrs. John Hamilton, Eli Francis, John Francis, George Blake, Richard Norris, James Green, Samuel Barker, Isaac Whiting, Samuel Phelps, and others. The supply of food was abundant, and the inviting appearance of the tables after its arrangement upon them, was a sufficient proof of the good judgment of the committee of arrangements in selecting Mr. McCormick for this duty.

Messrs. Case and Duncan, to whom was committed the task of making arrangements for the conveyance of the residents of Poquonock and Rainbow to Broad street Green, were

more successful in their efforts than one who was unacquainted with the community would have supposed they could have been. Of the large number of horses and vehicles of various dimensions employed for that purpose, there were generously placed at the disposal of the committee by Mr. R. D. Case of Rainbow, fourteen carriages and thirty-four horses; by the Poquonock Mills, one carriage and four horses; by Tunxis Mills, Hough & Hall, S. L. Smith, I. M. Brown, Daniel Griswold, Sidney Hollister, and Michael Dunn, each one carriage and two horses. Fifteen of the above carriages were of large dimensions, and it is thought accommodated fully six hundred persons with comfortable passage. In the fitting of one of them, one thousand feet of lumber was used, and it accommodated sixty-six persons. All of them were canopied and tastefully trimmed with evergreens, flowers, flags, and streamers of the national colors. The committee return their thanks to all who gave them their aid, and especially to Mr. Eli S. Hough, who in his usual hearty and cheerful manner, collected the provisions from the various places in Poquonock and Rainbow, until his team was laden with more than a ton, which he delivered in good condition to the provision committee on the green.

Mr. John A. Bruce, assisted by Hiram B. Shannon and James Reynolds, prepared the drinks—ice-water and lemonade—and Mr. Samuel Austin the coffee, of all of which there was a good supply and of an excellent quality.

On the evening of the third, all things were in an advanced state of preparation, and thousands of hearts beat happily in anticipation of the good time coming on the morrow. Children went to bed, singing, “Wake me early, Mother dear,” and many fervent aspirations rose from pious hearts to Divine Providence, for a favorable day, in which to pay due honor to the Centennial Fourth.

The sun rose upon a cloudless sky and the day was ushered in by the firing of cannon on Plymouth Meadow, under the direction of Col. E. N. Phelps, and by the ringing of bells for nearly an hour. Early in the day, anticipation ripened into certainty that the large expectations which had

been excited in regard to the celebration, would be more than realized. At 8 o'clock A. M. the Masonic Hall, and the stores and dwellings around the Green and adjacent to it, were tastefully decorated with national flags, banners, flowers, and beautifully arranged drapery of the red, the white, and the blue. Not the least noticeable of these was the house of our usually undemonstrative town clerk, Mr. Horace Bower, who, catching the enthusiasm of the occasion, in addition to other appropriate decorations, exhibited a large framed portrait of Washington, the Father of his country.

The first organized demonstration of the day was a grand cavalcade of fantasies, under the command of Capt. Edward L. Smith and Lieut. E. Lee St. John, representing all the characters, hideous and otherwise, that ever existed, or are supposed to have existed. This passed through the principal streets of the town to the great delight of the juveniles, and contributed largely to the satisfaction of those of a larger growth who find pleasure in an exhibition of the marvelous.

At 11 o'clock A. M. a procession of the officers and scholars of the Windsor Sunday-schools, under direction of the marshal of the day, was formed to receive the Sunday-schools and residents of Poquonock and Rainbow. This procession was led by the Windsor Cornet Band, and the surviving Windsor soldiers who served in the late civil war. In due time, preceded by the Drum and Fife Band, in a carriage owned by S. L. Smith, came the Poquonock and Rainbow participants in the celebration. The second carriage, under the charge of Manly S. Snow of Rainbow, was full of old men and ladies, over 75 years of age, who were grateful that a kind Providence had graciously lengthened out their years beyond the allotted three score and ten, and permitted them to participate in the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of their country's birth-day. It had long been looked forward to by them with hopeful expectancy; now their eyes beheld it, and they were glad.

The third carriage, arranged by Mr. Samuel L. Smith of Poquonock, and under his care, was drawn by six large horses, and contained sixty-six persons, comfortably seated

upon four rows of seats running lengthwise of the carriage, the two center rows being elevated so as to overlook the side ones. Of those who occupied the carriage, fifty were young ladies, respectively representing a State of the Union, a Territory, the District of Columbia, and the Goddess of Liberty. In addition to these there were sixteen gentlemen who assisted in singing, and were led by Mr. Thomas Clark. Mr. George Barnes, quite a large man for these degenerate days, personating "Uncle Sam of 1876," and his son, a very small boy, because young, personating "Uncle Sam of 1776," were numbered with the sixteen. The carriage and the horses were gaily and tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers, intermingled with the national colors, and with the living loveliness of the occupants of the carriage, formed a picture of enchanting beauty, the remembrance of which will be a joy forever.

A photograph of this carriage and the horses, owned by R. D. Case of Rainbow, and of the occupants, has been procured. A separate one has also been obtained of the Goddess of Liberty.

The remaining carriages were in no way inferior in interest to those already mentioned; and the whole Poquonock and Rainbow turn-out showed that the members of the committee of arrangements who resided in that section of the town, as well as the sub-committees for districts Nos. seven, eight, nine, and ten, were fully alive to the importance of the occasion, and were determined that no failure on their part should mar the exercises of the day. All honor to the ladies and gentlemen of these districts, for their efforts and sacrifices to make the celebration the glorious success it was. Most nobly was the pledge redeemed, that Rainbow and Poquonock would do justice to the occasion, and to themselves.

A large tent, capable of seating a thousand persons, had been erected contiguous to a comfortable shade, and in and around this gathered the large assembly to listen to the interesting exercises, promised in an extensively circulated programme. Mr. E. S. Clapp, the marshal of the day, presided over the exercises in the tent, assisted by the Hon. H. S.

Hayden, the chairman of the committee of arrangements. The exercises were opened with appropriate music by a large choir, led by Capt. John Parker, superintendent of the Methodist Sunday-school, and in which the whole assembly joined, giving a grand example of the power of congregational singing to stir the soul.

After a prayer by the Rev. B. Judkins, rector of Grace church, and music by the choir and audience, the reading of the Declaration of Independence, by H. L. Soper of Poquonock, was listened to with as much attention and quietness as if it had been a new document and this was the occasion of its first announcement. The spirit of Thomas Jefferson, if it was hovering over the assemblage, as was intimated later in the day, must have been abundantly satisfied.

After music by the band, the marshal introduced Jabez H. Hayden, Esq., of Windsor Locks, a native of the town, who delivered the following historical address:

ADDRESS.

One hundred years ago to-day, a Windsor soldier in the city of New York sat down to write a letter to his parents. Two days before, Washington had issued an order to the army, portraying the perilous condition of the country, and the momentous interests at stake in the impending battle. Finding in this order what best expressed his own sentiments regarding the situation, the soldier copied from it until drum-beat called him to lay aside his pen, and resume his musket.

CAMP NEW YORK, July 4, 1776.

Honored Father and Mother :

“The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves : whether they are to have any property they can call their own ; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and they consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will probably deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us no choice but a brave resistance, or the most abject submission. This is all we can expect. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die. Our country’s honor calls upon us for a vigorous and manly exertion, and if we now shamefully fail, we shall become infamous to the whole world. Let us rely upon the goodness of our cause, and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions. The eyes of all our countrymen are now upon us, and we shall have their blessings and praises if, happily, we are the instruments of saving them from the tyranny meditated against them.

Let us animate and encourage each other, and show to the whole world that a freeman contending for liberty on his own ground, is superior to any slavish mercenary on earth.

The General recommends to the officers great coolness in time of action, and to the soldiers strict attention and obedience, with a becoming firmness of spirit."

The drum beats, and I must turn out with fatigued men and main guard. 'Tis, thanks be to God, pretty healthy in the army.

Your affectionate son,

HEZEKIAH HAYDEN.

While this soldier, to whom we shall again refer, sat copying these noble sentiments in New York, John Hancock and his associates were signing the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia—a declaration which would have availed nothing, but for the good right arms of the soldiers who defended it, and the patriotic zeal of those at home, who sustained the soldiers. It is fitting that we to-day recall some of the sacrifices and services rendered by this mother of towns, in the accomplishment of the Independence which this great nation celebrates to-day. It is fitting that the children come forth to-day to honor the worthies who one hundred years ago won our independence, and take lessons in love of country, from the story of the past.

None of the school children before me have ever looked upon a soldier of the Revolution. Some in middle life have talked with those whose memory ran back to 1776, and a few of us who have lived more than half a century have listened to the tales of the old soldiers themselves. We will repeat something from these revolutionary stories, and then turn back to history to examine briefly what had been the training of the generations which preceded them, and which qualified the people of 1776 to deliberately meet, and bravely endure, the fearful trials of that culminating hour in our history, which severed our colonial dependence and gave us Independence.

Open hostilities had broken out between the people of

Massachusetts and the mother country more than a year before the signing of the declaration.

I need not tell these school boys of Paul Revere's ride to rouse the people to resist the British soldiers who were leaving Boston to destroy the military stores at Concord, or the resistance they met. There was no telegraphic communication to say to the people of Connecticut on that 19th day of April, 1775, what was being done at Lexington and Concord. But when those "Red-coats" had been pelted back to Boston, there went forth couriers to spread the alarm through New England. The day after, on the 20th of April, the people of this part of Windsor were attending the funeral of their Pastor, Rev. Mr. Russell. While they were engaged in these services, either at their church, which then stood at the north end of this green, or assembled around his open grave, a rider drew up his panting steed, and told of the Battle of Lexington. The funeral services ended, men hurried to their homes and seized their muskets; the dreaded war had come. In imitation of Paul Revere, another rider on a fresh horse caught up the shout,

"And a hurry of hoofs in a village street"

soon carried the dispatch to Suffield, and thus from town to town spread the "Lexington alarm." That night was one of preparation. Many a wife or mother toiled through the night, to equip a soldier, ready to go forth on the morrow. When mustered on that 21st day of April, 1775, there stood 23 Windsor men with Captain Nathaniel Hayden at their head, who at once took up their march towards Boston. Through all that summer and the coming winter, Windsor men were enlisting into the army, and when July 4th, 1776, was reached, Windsor was almost depleted of her able-bodied men. The little neighborhood of Pinemeadow, now Windsor Locks, consisted of nine families,—the head of all but one of those families was in the army. The British had been driven out of Boston, and were now advancing on New York, and it was of momentous importance to the colonies that New York be held. 10,000 Connecticut soldiers were in New York in August, 1776.

While the men were bearing arms to uphold the Declaration, the women took up the implements of husbandry, and toiled in fields. Many a sunburnt girl who took up the work of a brother, or father, to supply the necessities of the family, took up that work with a patriotic zeal equal to that of the soldier whose place she filled, and many a doting mother, or loving wife, put forth heroic efforts to feed the children at home, and the soldiers at the front. Then there came a time, when the stern law of necessity required from every barn in Windsor, all the grain there found, above a given amount for each member of the household depending upon it. And again the constituted authorities went forth in search of lead for bullets.*

I was once told by Mr. Roswell Miller, whom some of you remember, that there came a time when not a clock was running in Windsor; the lead weights of the last one had been run into bullets.

We smile when we think of a people submitting to such exactions, a people who were periling everything in resistance to the exactions of King George, and the maintenance of the Declaration of Independence. There were those who failed to see the corresponding good. Mr. Eliakim Mather, who lived on the street nearly a mile north of the old church, declared the taking of his clock weights to be an illegal and arbitrary act, and took an oath that his clock should stand without weights, until the authority which took them away, returned them. Through all the long 30 years of the old man's after life, the old clock was to him an unmoved witness to his persevering observance of his oath; and when, at the age of 84, he looked for the last time upon the face of his clock, it still gave no sound.

We now return to the army at New York. From July 4th, 1776, there was great activity in preparing for the coming struggle. On the 27th of August, was fought the disastrous

*“Lead delivered to the Town’s Men, 1776. Clock weight lead.” Capt. Stoughton, 18 lbs. Capt. Ellsworth, 30 lbs. Rev. Mr. Hinsdale, 13 lbs. Josiah Allen, 28 lbs. David Ellsworth, Jr., 24 lbs. Daniel Hayden, 24 lbs., and John Allen, 14 lbs.—*Town Records*.

battle of Long Island. Washington had met the enemy where the city of Brooklyn now stands, and was driven back with great loss. A dark night and foggy morning enabled Gen. Washington to retreat back to New York. I have listened to the recital of an old soldier* who stood guard to prevent overloading the boats which plied with muffled oars between Brooklyn and New York, all that night, and until late next morning. When the last boats containing those who had stood guard, pushed from the shore, the fog lifted, and revealed their situation to a Regiment of British Horse, who were cautiously approaching to discover the American army, all too late to arrest their flight. Among the prisoners taken by the British, during that battle, were several Windsor men, who were thrust into the old Jersey Prison ship. Among them were Capt. Bissell, Cornet Russell, Hezekiah Hayden, Nathaniel Lamberton, and Wm. Parsons. The last three died a lingering death by starvation. Russell barely survived, and was never after able to speak above a whisper. Capt. Bissell survived some years to tell of the horrors of the Jersey Prison Ship.

Then came the retreat from New York. It was a motley crowd. Citizens who were committed to the American cause with such valuables as they could carry with them; soldiers in regiments, companies, squads, and in single file. Many of the soldiers paid little regard to whose company they were in so they were in a company well advanced. In that crowd was the wife of Major, afterwards Gen., Newberry, in a carriage she had driven from Windsor to care for her sick husband. At one point her carriage was disabled, and they likely to fall into the hands of their enemies. She pleaded unsuccessfully with the sick man to suffer the badges of his office to be removed, and he escaped with them on. Jabez Haskell, who had succeeded in bringing off a number of sick Windsor men as far as Kings Bridge, was challenged by the guard at that point, and his pass demanded. Charging bayonet, he shouted: "Here's my pass, stand out of the way," and his invalid corps was soon beyond pursuit. One Wind-

* Phineas Pickett.

sor man, who was stricken by a spent ball, so increased his speed as to leave all his comrades behind. Windsor made strenuous effort to keep her quota of men in the field during all the war. Nearly every able-bodied man at some time became a soldier. Bounties were paid, and heavy taxes burdened the people.

Alarms called forth volunteers from time to time, when the enemy threatened some portion of our own state. The "Danbury Alarm" was responded to by Mr. Daniel Phelps, a man of more than three score years and ten, (grandfather of the late Dea. Roger Phelps,) and the late Dea. Daniel Gillett, and probably others. Each was mounted and carrying a musket hastened forward only to meet the returning volunteers, who told of the burning of Danbury, and the retreat of the British. The old man sighed that he could not get "one shot at the Red-Coats." But turning back he reached a ferry where numbers of impatient riders were waiting their turn, who with one consent declared that their rule should not apply to the old man, and the old man's plea took his companion with him. Late that night they reached the house of a friend, where the weary old man, in utter exhaustion, laid him down and died, and the younger volunteer returned to his home alone.

Mr. Daniel Bissell, Jr., who lived half a mile this side of Hayden Station, a man of iron nerve, was asked to take the perilous office of a Spy. Washington had asked for a suitable man, Daniel Bissell was named, and he accepted the position, received his instructions, and like his predecessor, "the Martyr Hale," he passed within the lines of the British. The thrilling story of his experiences within the lines, and his final escape from them, is too long to tell here. In my early childhood, in nearly every second house north of the river, there lived an old man who had been a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and I doubt not, this side of the river, and through Poquonock the same evidences of patriotism were equally manifest. More than half a century after the close of the war the pension rolls show more than fifty Windsor pensioners.

After the war was over there was a great work to be done to establish over the whole country the system of government so long before organized in New England. After twelve years (from the date of the declaration,) of inefficient government under the Confederacy, our glorious Constitution was framed and adopted. A distinguished citizen of Windsor, Oliver Ellsworth, took a prominent part in the convention which framed it, drafting the articles relating to the Judiciary.

Time forbids further reference to details of the war of the revolution, or later wars, or the daily life and progress of the century between us and the days we have been considering, and we have only space for a brief reference to the century and a half preceding the revolution—the discipline of which had prepared our fathers for the noble part they acted, and the mighty influence they exerted in founding a Republic which is now the admiration of the world. The seed planted here by the Pilgrim Fathers of New England was the growth of former cultivation within their church organization. They had there learned and put in practice their theory of the equality of God's people.

A strife in the christian church had for a century divided Europe into two great parties, neither of which severed the church from the State. In England, from the days of Edward 6th, there had been a struggle within the church of England; the one party contending right loyally for her rites and ceremonies, the other (generally a meager minority), as loyally attached to her doctrines, but persistently and from generation to generation, pleading for "freedom to worship God." The government of England, in accordance with the spirit and almost universal practice of the age insisted upon uniformity in public worship. "Let everything be done with decency and in order." Those who dissented, the Puritans, organized independent churches and had meetings in secret places for religious service. When thus met, shut out from the world, they read "One is your master even Christ, and all ye are brethren." Notable among these churches because of their after fame, was the little company who for a long time met in the heart of England within the old Manor House of Elder

Brewster, and from thence fled, on being discovered, to Holland, where, surrounded by strangers of a strange speech, their very necessities still emphasized the text, "and all ye are brethren."

Twelve years they lived in Holland, and we next find them signing the compact on board the Mayflower in Cape Cod harbor, and settling their church and state at Plymouth. Extreme measures were instituted in England against nonconformity, and the Puritans were becoming more and more restive under their disabilities. Ten years experience at Plymouth had proved the possibility of finding subsistence in the wilds of New England, and in the summer of 1630 nearly 2,000 of these people came over from England and settled in and around Boston. And now it became necessary so to extend the local government of the one town of Plymouth as to cover a community of towns, and the one restriction in their franchise, which has been stigmatized as illiberal, was simply the one restriction which enabled them to make all else free. In their churches all were equal, all were brethren, and when the suffrage of the civil state was confined to the members of their churches, there appeared no reason why their theory of church government should not also prevail in their civil affairs. The citizens of Dorchester, Newtown, and Watertown, had participated in the organization of the government at the Bay, and when they came here and settled at Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield, they removed that one restriction and made their civil government as free as their church. "He who brought us over will sustain us." Five years after their arrival here a Constitution was framed and adopted: the first written Constitution defining and limiting the powers of the government which the world had ever seen. The compact of the Pilgrim Fathers simply provided for a government to be organized by a majority of the people. The majority could have placed all the power in the hands of their worthy leader, Elder Brewster. Connecticut made a Constitution which was afterwards largely embodied in the charter of Charles II, which was granted 22 years later—a charter which, with the exception of the period of Andros's usurpation in 1687—

when it slept in the heart of the charter oak—was the charter of our liberties down to and through the war of the Revolution, and for 42 years after the Declaration had severed us from the authority of the mother country. And when our present Constitution was framed in 1818, Alexander Wolcott, a delegate to the convention from Middletown, though a citizen of Windsor until his appointment to the custom house there, opposed its adoption, declaring it “a mere embodiment of King Charles’s Charter.”* That written Constitution of 1640, the model of the Constitution of the Union and of so many States of the Union, was largely the work of Roger Ludlow, one of the first settlers of Windsor, whose house lot was a little south of us, within the sound of my voice. Roger Ludlow was the first Deputy Governor under that first Constitution, and helped to establish the first precedents in legislation under it. As at a later day, Oliver Ellsworth of Windsor, in the capacity of Senator, aided in shaping the first legislation under the Constitution of the United States. And as Chief Justice, presided over its Supreme Court, the rules of which Court are said to have been largely copied from the Rules of the Connecticut Courts.

I have thus attempted to trace the origin of Republicanism in New England, and the influence of it through four or five generations, in molding the character of those who fought the battles of the revolution, and changed their allegiance from the King of England, to the American Republic, without changing the form or spirit of their civil government.

The town meetings of Windsor, at the present day, are governed by the same rules our fathers had, and have no more power, and are no more free, than they were two centuries ago.

Within a year of the settlement of Boston, a Windsor Indian went down to Boston and Plymouth inviting trade and settlement. Plymouth accepted the invitation and sent Capt. Holmes in the fall of 1633, with material for a Trading House,

* John M. Niles in Stiles’ History.

which he set up and fortified on the west bank of the Connecticut, below the mouth of the Tunxis.*

Most of the settlers of this town were from Dorchester, Mass., and by way of distinction were called the Dorchester people. Their homes in England had been scattered over the counties of Devon, Dorset, and Somersetshire, and of their worth it is said that “three counties were sifted for so goodly a company.” As before said, they arrived at Dorchester, Mass., 1630, where they suffered many privations, and they were hardly more than comfortably settled there, when the fame of the rich open meadows on the Connecticut river led them hither. The Pioneers of the Dorchester Co. reached here, we think, as early as the middle of June, 1635,† and after July 6th, but before the Dorchester men had decided just where to locate, Sir Robert Saltonstall’s vessel, with another party, under charge of Mr. Francis Stiles, arrived to make provision for the accommodation of certain

* The Plymouth people retained possession of their Trading House and lands adjacent, two years before and three years after the arrival of the Dorchester and Saltonstall people. They were amenable to the jurisdiction of the General Court, [See Colonial Records, vol. I, page 16.] Their lands were entered on the town records with the lands of the other settlers; they shared their Indian title with the Dorchester people for a valuable consideration, retaining one-sixteenth part thereof, which amounted in meadow land to $43\frac{3}{4}$ acres which was set to them around their Trading House, and they continued to occupy it a full year after they were merged in full fellowship with the Windsor people, and when they sold their meadow in 1638, they sold “lands, houses, servants, goods and chattels,”—there was no break between the settlement of the Plymouth people and the Dorchester people.

† Jonathan Brewster, who wrote from the Trading House, of the arrival of the Dorchester people under date of July 6, 1636, “for the first Co. had well nigh starved, had it not been for this house, for want of victuals, I being forced to supply twelve men for nine days together, and those which came last I entertained as best we could, helping both them (and the others) with canoes and guides. They got me to go with them to the Dutch to see if they could procure some of them to have quiet settling near them.—[The Hartford people had not arrived!] Also I gave their goods house room according to their earnest request, and what trouble and charges I shall be further at I know not, for they are coming daily, and I expect those back again from below whither they have gone to view the country.” And the Saltonstall party who wanted the Dorchester party to give way and let them have the land about the Tunxis, stated in their complaint the next year that when they arrived, the Dorchester men had not returned from viewing the land “above the falls,” *i.e.* had not actually taken up the ground.

Lords and Gentlemen in England, who then anticipated settling on the banks of the Connecticut, but afterwards finding prospect of relief from their disabilities at home, they abandoned their plan of emigration, and we find Mr. Francis Stiles and the men under his charge sharing with the Dorchester men in the first distribution of land, 1640; at which time all the land on the road from the Little or Tunxis river "to Wm. Hayden's lot," [Hayden Station,] was laid out in home lots.* On the south side of the river, the road ran from the ferry to the present residence of David Rowland, thence south to the point where it now turns west. On this road were the houses of four prominent settlers. The road ran so far west as to reach the upland about the present track of the railroad, when it turned south, following the upland, probably below the present road to the island, crossing over and down the island, and on through the meadows to Hartford. Fronting on this road, and the little meadow, were nine or ten houses, between the ruins of the burned mill and the point where the road crossed to the island, and on the island were located several settlers. Broad St. was not then opened, but the road from the mill ruins continued west to the District School House, and thence on to the "Old Mill," and beyond. In this vicinity several families settled, and a few years later five families settled in Poquonock to cultivate the meadows there.†

Upon the breaking out of the Pequot War, in 1637, the Windsor people, as a precaution against surprise by the

* Mr. Francis Stiles' home lot covered the site of the Chief Justice Ellsworth place. All the houses were at first set on the east side of the road, on the brow of the Meadow hill, from whence they could overlook their cultivated lands. All else was an unbroken forest. The curves and angles in that road, the beaten track of which seven generations have followed, were made to carry the road to the house of each of the first settlers.

† This Courte taking into consideracon the many dangers that the familyes of Thomas Holecombe, Edward Grisswold, John Bartlitt, Francis Grisswold, and George Grisswold, all of Wyndor, are in and exposed vnto, by reason of thier remoate lung from neighbors and nearenes to the indians, in case they should all leane thier families together without any guard; doth free one souldier of the fore menconed families from training vppon every training day; each family aforesaid to share herein according to the number of souldiers that are in them; provided that man w^{ch} tarryes at home stands about the aforesaid houses vpon his sentinel posture.—*Colonial Records*, 1649.

Indians, built a fortification, or, as they called it, a Palisado. This was a stockade, erected on the north bank of the Tunxis, the east, south, and west lines of which stood directly on the brow of the hill. The palisades were strengthened by a ditch on the outside, the earth of which was thrown up against them. The north line ran across on the north line of, and parallel to, the north line of the present Congregational parsonage. The whole enclosure was a little less than one-quarter of a mile square. Into this Palisado were gathered, for safety, all the families of the town, with their cattle and effects, while Capt. Mason, and his little army of 90 Englishmen and 70 Indians, went down to fight the Pequots. A week after their departure, Mr. Ludlow writes, from within the Palisado, to his friend, Mr. Pyncheon, in Springfield. This letter gives us a view of their perilous condition. He gave an Indian a new coat for carrying it. "I have received your letter, wherein you express that you are well fortified, but few hands. For my part, my spirit is ready to sink within me, when, upon alarms, which are daily, I think of your condition, that if the case be never so dangerous, we can neither help you, nor you us. But I must confess, both you and ourselves do stand merely in the power of our God. * * * Our plantations are so gleaned by that small fleet we sent out [He pleaded military necessity for taking Mr. Pyncheon's boats, without his leave; the boats were at or below "Warehouse Point"], that those that remain are not able to supply our watches, which are day and night; that our people are scarce able to stand upon their legs; and, for planting, we are in a like condition with you; what we plant is before our doors—little anywhere else." The houses within the Palisado were built around and facing an open square; around the rear of their house lots, and next the Palisado was a two-rod road for public convenience. The present Palisado Green is much less than its original size; it was then as wide, or nearly so, at the north as at the south end. On the Green stood their meeting-house, and, a little later the town granted the privilege to Tahan Grant to build a

blacksmith shop, and James Eno to build a shop “to barber in,” on the Green, west of the meeting-house. The site of the blacksmith shop is now covered by Gen. Pierson’s house; the other was just south of it. In the southwest corner of the Palisado was the ancient cemetery, containing the remains of Windsor’s early dead. The town early made provision to have David Wilson “clear the burying place of stubs and boughs, and sow it down to English grass.” Here stands the monument of one of their first ministers—the oldest gravestone in Connecticut, and probably the first erected in New England.*

The entrance from the south was at the southeast corner, where the present road goes down to the meadow; the north entrance, where the road now runs in front of the Rev. Mr. Wilson’s. At least some portion of the Palisado was standing as late as 1715. Towards the close of the last century, the causeway and bridge were built, and the road, which had before run up on the east side of the Green, now runs diagonally through it, from the southwest to the northeast corner, and the previous encroachments on the west side were now continued up to the new road, leaving Palisado Green triangular in shape. It is still a point of great historic interest. On it stood the first meeting-house, of Warham, Huit, and Chauncey, and the second, a larger house, with “two tiers of galleries,” in which the famous Whitfield once preached to an audience too large to get within its doors. Those who live around it should guard it well.

That invitation extended by the Indians in 1631 to the white man, to come and occupy the rich meadows bordering on the “Long River,” accompanied with the promise of a supply of corn, and eighty beaver skins annually, was made to secure an ally able to protect them against the incursions of other hostile Indians, and this alliance provoked the hos-

* Heere Lyeth Ephraim Hvit sometimes Teacher to the Church of Windsor, who dyed September 4th 1644.

Who When hee Lived, Wee drew ovr vitall breath,
 Who When hee Dyed, his dying was ovr death,
 Who was ye Stay of State, ye Churches Staff,
 Alas ye times Forbid an EPITAPH.

tility of the Pequots against the whites, and led to their murderous assaults. When Capt. Holmes arrived here, he bought of the Indians the lands lying along the river, from Hayden station on the North, to (probably) two or three miles below Windsor depot on the South. An entry in the Journal of Governor Bradford of Plymouth, made, doubtless, from reports received from the occupants of the Trading House, shows something of the miserable condition in which the Indians lived, and the terrible destruction the small pox wrought among them, and the humane efforts of the whites to assist them.*

In 1614, a Dutch vessel from New York ascended the Connecticut river to latitude $41^{\circ} 48'$, to about Wilson station. They report a tribe of Indians there, and a fort, also another on the opposite side of the river, the Podunk Indians. After 1634 we find the Matianuck or Windsor Indians, and those at Wilson station, included in our community, perhaps had been when they were more numerous. Aramamet was a Matianuck Indian, and was evidently their chief. The Windsor people bought, what is now South Windsor, in 1636; it was bounded south by Podunk river, "over against the now dwelling house of Aramamet, or thereabouts, near the upper end of Newtown [Hartford] meadows." The next year, 1637, the Pequot war broke out, and these Indians came for

*This spring also, [1634,] those Indians that lived about their trading house, then fell sick of the small pox, and died most miserably. * * * The condition of this people was so lamentable, and they fell down so generally of this disease, as they were (in the end) not able to help one another; no, not to make a fire, nor to fetch a little water to drink, nor any to bury the dead; but would strive as long as they could, and when they could procure no other means to make a fire, they would burn the wooden trays, the dishes they eat their meat in, and their very bows and arrows; and some would crawl out on all fours to get a little water, and sometimes die by the way, and not be able to get in again. But those of the English house, (thongh at the first they were afraid of the infection,) yet seeing their woful and sad condition, and hearing their pitiful cries and lamentations, they had compassion on them, and daily fetched them wood and water, and made them fires, got them victuals, while they lived, and buried them when they died. For very few of them escaped, notwithstanding they did what they could for them, to the hazard of themselves. Their chief sahem, himself now died, and almost all his friends and kindred.

protection and settled down again beside the Trading House, and were there in the spring of 1638.*

The Plymouth Company had already sold to the Windsor people all their land with certain reservations, only 43½ acres of which lay in Plymouth meadow. If the Indians had appropriated it all, we could not have inferred from it there was any considerable number of them.

The late Frederick Chapman (born 1760,) once told me that when a boy, he went to a neighbor's house in the south part of the town, where he saw an Indian woman, (who was supported by the town,) the last of the tribe once occupying the ground, at Wilson station—would it not be a graceful tribute to the first known occupant of the spot to substitute the name of Aramaniet?

There was another tribe of Indians within the present town of Windsor, who reserved in their deed, 1642, a “part of a meadow at Paquannick, now in the occupation of the Indians.” This is now called Indian Neck, lying in a bend of the river, about east from Elm Grove.

The Indians of this tribe signed, with others, the deeds of lands on the east side of the Connecticut and at Windsor Locks, as well as those of Poquonock, all the land they reserved to live on, would not make a good farm, and their numbers could not have been large. The extravagant estimates of Windsor Indians made a hundred years ago, were based on the traditions handed down by the grandmothers whose childhood years had not been free from Indian alarms. It is doubtful whether they both numbered fifty souls. These two tribes comprised all the Indians living within the towns of Windsor and Windsor Locks in 1635. Windsor Indians appear to have remained friendly,—if we except Nasseehegan, Sachem of the Poquonock, who was kept in confinement for a time in King Philip's war, 1675–6, but evidently

* Upon complaint of Aramamett and the Indians cohabiting with him, aboute Lieutenant Holmes denying the planting of the old grounde planted the last yeere aboute Plymouth house. It was ordered that they should plante the old ground they planted the last yeere for this yeere onely, and they are to sell thiere wigwams in the old grounde [Wilson's Station,] and not withoute.—*Colonial Records*.

for no overt act of hostility. Some of King Philip's warriors fell upon Henry Denslow, the only settler at Pine Meadow, [Windsor Locks,] and killed him about the first of April, 1676, and about the same time Mr. Elmore of Podunk was killed. But Indian alarms were of occasional occurrence until Canada was ceded to England, 1762. At such times nightly patrols were maintained, men carried their muskets into the fields, and to the house of God.

Windsor soldiers went forth with Capt. Mason to fight the Pequots, 1637, and under Capt. Marshall to fight the Narragansetts, 1675, when the Captain and four of his men fell. Others went from time to time to the defence of the town of Northampton, Hadley, &c., some of whom lost their lives; others fought the French and Indians at Lake George, and elsewhere, 1758, and later.

In closing, let me congratulate the citizens of this historic town, on the rich inheritance you have. Cherish the virtues, and emulate the heroic deeds of those who have preceded you,—who here labored and rejoiced. Appreciate the blessings of the lot God has given you, as did that eminent statesman and jurist, that genial neighbor and friend of our fathers, Oliver Ellsworth, who, near the close of his life, loved to repeat, in his own terse language, as one of the results of his life experience :

“I have traveled through several countries ; I love my own the best. I have traveled through all the States of our Union ; I prefer Connecticut before any other. Windsor is the pleasantest town in Connecticut, and I have the pleasantest place in Windsor. I am content, perfectly content, to die on the banks of the Connecticut.”

At the close of the address, upon the motion of the Rev. Mr. Judkins, it was unanimously *voted*, to order the printing of a thousand copies of it for general distribution.

Music by the choir followed, after which the President introduced the Rev. R. H. Tuttle, who read the following Centennial Ode :

CENTENNIAL ODE.

BY REV. R. H. TUTTLE.

(1.)

The Chroniclers have told
 How Windsor castle old
 For centuries has been the home of kings ;
 The grandeur of the place,
 Prized by the English race,
 A thing of beauty which the poet sings.

(2.)

But Windsor castle here,
 Built by a race austere,
 By those who slept at night upon their arms,
 Was the old Palisade
 The Indian did invade,
 Which Pilgrims guarded nightly 'mid alarms.

(3.)

Now after lapse of years
 Of human griefs and fears,
 The wondrous century plant for us doth bloom ;
 Ye nations of the earth
 Come to our social hearth,
 For unto all we gladly say, " give room."

(4.)

Though the wild winds may roar
 Upon the mountain hoar,
 And fearful lightnings hurtle through the sky ;
 Though waves of passion cast
 Their fury 'fore the blast—
 We know that God is nigh.

(5.)

For now the Northern star
 Beams not on scenes of war,
 Where once the battle poured its gory tide ;
 We mourn sad years of loss,
 Yet still the Southern cross
 Bids us stand side by side.

(6.)

We still are brothers all,
 And at our Country's call
 Would each and all defend her to the last ;
 We ever pray for peace,
 For years when war shall cease,
 And hence for ever every strife be cast.

(7.)

Jesus of Bethlehem
 We touch thy garment's hem,
 As through the nations, Thou art passing by;
 For prophets have foretold
 That Thou art King, of old.
 Yea, everlastingly.

(8.)

For all our worldly things,
 Blessings, Thy Gospel brings,
 And every gift Thy free rich grace affords ;
 Ever we bow to Thee,
 Thy hand in all we see,
 We hail Thee King of kings, and Lord of lords.

On the conclusion of the reading of the Ode, the orator of the day, the Hon. George G. Sill, Lieutenant Governor of the State, and a native of Windsor, was introduced by the marshall, and greeted with hearty cheers by the audience. His oration was of such a character as to add to his already well-earned reputation of being a sound and independent thinker, a discriminating reader of history, an eloquent as well as humorous speaker, and one who is fearless in the utterance of what he believes to be truth. He spoke of the Puritans as being a God-fearing, rather than a God-loving people, as a people who trembled at the thunders of Sinai, rather than trusted to the love manifested on Calvary—who feared God's justice more than they trusted his mercy. Religious liberty with them, was the liberty of everybody to worship God as they did, and they tolerated everybody who believed just as they believed. One of the blue laws of Connecticut, in reference to the use of tobacco, was referred to, to illustrate the social tyranny of many of their laws. But notwithstanding all their faults—all that might be said against them—for every fault they had a thousand virtues; for every bad thing that could be said against them a thousand good things could be said for them. He defended Governor Andross from the charge of being a tyrant, and expressed the hope that next winter the legislature of the State would make an additional adornment of the walls of its senate chamber, by plac-

ing his portrait, "lovely and mild as the face of a woman," with the portraits of the other governors of the State.

After refreshments, of which there was an abundance for all, the Hon. T. C. Coogan, of Windsor Locks, entertained the audience with an address full of congratulations to the people of Windsor for the important part its citizens had taken, not only in moulding the institutions of the State, but of the country. He was frequently applauded during his eloquent address, and all were glad that our senator honored us with his presence.

At this stage of the proceedings, the chairman of the committee of arrangements, the Hon. H. S. Hayden, after congratulating all present upon the success of the celebration, stated that, in reply to an invitation extended by him to President Grant, to be present and honor the day of the nation's birth in the home of his ancestor, Matthew Grant, who came to Windsor in 1635, and for many years as a surveyor and town recorder filled a large and honorable place in its history, he had received the following letter:

WINDSOR, June 26th, 1876.

To GENERAL U. S. GRANT,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C.:

Edward Chauncey Marshall, A. M., concludes his preface to "The Ancestry of General Grant and their contemporaries,"—

"It may be suggested that General Grant should at some future period, make a pilgrimage to Windsor, the Mecca of his ancestral history, and he will see the early town records preserved now for more than two centuries, which were written carefully, and in a scholarly manner by the pioneer Matthew Grant. And in Hartford he will find guarded with jealous care by Mr. Trumbull in the "Historical Library," the manuscript "Old Church Book," which is also in the handwriting of Matthew Grant."

In view of the foregoing, associating your ancestry with the history of this ancient town, we take the liberty of

enclosing a card of invitation to be present at the "Centennial Picnic" of this the oldest town of the State of Connecticut.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) H. SIDNEY HAYDEN,
Chairman of Committee of Arrangements.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, }
June 28th, 1876. }

DEAR SIR:—The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 26th inst., enclosing a card of invitation to be present at the Centennial Picnic at Windsor, on July 4th, and express his thanks for the courteous attention.

He regrets that his engagements will not permit him to accept.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

U. S. GRANT, JR.,
Secretary.

To H. SIDNEY HAYDEN,
Windsor, Conn.

WINDSOR, CONN., June 28, 1876.

HON. R. B. HAYES, Governor of Ohio,

Dear Sir: Having learned from the Hon. H. Lynde Harrison, delegate to the Cincinnati Convention, that you refer with pleasure to the settlement of your ancestors in Connecticut, and that to Windsor belongs the honor of their first citizenship, I take great pleasure in enclosing card of invitation to Windsor's first Centennial. If not convenient to be present will you oblige us with subject-matter for consideration, and greatly oblige. Yours Respectfully,

H. SIDNEY HAYDEN,
for the Committee.

From Governor Hayes, of Ohio, whose first American ancestor of the name of Hayes was George Hayes, a Scotchman,

who settled in Windsor, Connecticut, about 1680, the following reply was received, regretting his inability, through press of business, to comply with the invitation extended to him:

COLUMBUS, OHIO, July 1, 1876.

Dear Sir: Governor Hayes desires me to acknowledge, with sincere thanks, receipt of your valued favor of June 28th, and to assure you that he is deeply gratified by its friendly expressions. He regrets that the demands upon his time are so excessive at present that he is unable to prepare the communication you request, and he begs that you will excuse him.

Very Respectfully,

ALFRED E. LEE, *Secretary.*

To Mr. H. SIDNEY HAYDEN,
Windsor, Conn.

Judge H. S. Hayden then read the following toasts:

1. The Day we Celebrate—Made glorious by the declaration of our fathers, and by their long suffering, patience, and fortitude, in making good their declaration.
2. Washington—The first in war, the first in peace, and the first in the hearts of his countrymen.
3. The Ladies as Mothers, Wives, and Companions—The more we consult and confide in them, the more beautiful, chaste, and permanent, will our future become.
4. Civil and Religious Liberty—The cardinal virtues, wanting which no republic can hope for a permanent existence.
5. Education—Obligatory, but free to all, the first and absolute requirement to qualify a man for the political franchise.
6. Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce—The natural fountains of national wealth and grandeur.
7. Our Mercantile Shipping—The strong right arm of wealth and defense, the toll collector of commerce, the busy bee which brings home gold and glittering gems, and spreading our flag in every part of our globe, makes us respected, feared and admired by all nations.
8. Old Windsor—Beautiful as a bride in youth and loveliness, we adore her as our mother.

9. The Executive, Judiciary, and Legislature of Connecticut—A model of firmness, justice, and purity.

10. The Centennial Exhibition—The great and worthy offspring of our prosperity and marvelous growth; Connecticut is honored in its presidency, and the Hon. Joseph R. Hawley honors the position which he occupies.

11. We acknowledge the guidance of Almighty God, and ask His blessing.

Among the volunteer toasts were the following:

Oliver Ellsworth—Chief justice of the supreme court of the United States, and one of the architects of our national constitution. By Dr. P. W. Ellsworth, of Hartford.

July 4th—The anniversary of a great political event, on which Americans should not merely consider what they are as a nation and people, but also what under their chartered political institutions and the favor of God they might and ought to be. By General F. E. Mather.

Connecticut—Her declaration of the absolute rights of man, and her system of common school education have fitted her sons to pioneer territories and found governments on the same principles, wherever they go. By Osbert B. Loomis.

After the reading of the toasts the Hon. Mr. Rainey, a representative in Congress from South Carolina, who has a summer residence in Windsor, addressed the audience. He spoke of the advancement of the nation and the world in the arts and sciences, and in all that constitutes material greatness, through the inventive genius of American citizens. He was proud that he was an American citizen, since the nation had proved its sincerity to the doctrines of its Declaration of Independence by making all of its citizens free and equal before the law.

Dr. Ellsworth, a grandson of Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth, a native of Windsor, Dr. Stiles, author of “Stiles’ History of Windsor,” General William S. Pierson, of Windsor, Lemuel Stoughton and Jabez W. Allen, Esqs., of East Windsor, the Hon. John W. Stoughton, of South Windsor, and Mr. Oliver Hayden, of East Granby, each made short and interesting speeches, and added greatly to the enjoyment of the occasion.

Mr. Franklin Bolles, of Windsor, was introduced, and read the following poem:

Windsor, thy sons to-day would crown
 Thy name with honor and renown ;
 Thy daughters would *their* rivals be,
 In the loved work of praising thee.

O, ancient, brave, historic town,
 Thy name deserves the brightest crown ;
 And while thy praise the muses sing,
 Our hearts a grateful tribute bring.

Among our towns thou wast first born.
 Thy first crops pumpkins, Indian corn ;
 Brave men, and maidens sweet and fair,
 Were also raised, with tenderest care.

'Twas here our fathers wrought in pain,
 Freedom to sow, nor wrought in vain,
 The seed brought forth a harvest grand,
 That now waves over all our land.

The king had sent unto our shore
 His minions, who the red coats wore ;
 And Indian foes, on either hand,
 Were dwelling near, a treacherous band.

Those days were dark, men quaked with fear,
 For many a tory, too, was here ;
 Those were the times that patriots tried,
 Still they believed God would provide.

Upon a pleasant April morn,
 When Russel* to his grave was borne,
 When prayer was done, when read the Word,
 The sound of hurrying hoofs was heard,

Then came the news. On panting steed
 Came messenger with utmost speed.
 Arouse! brave men, the war's begun,
 At Concord, and at Lexington.

And hasty hoof to Suffield's farms,
 Soon spread the Lexington alarms ;
 Man left the forge, the shop, the field,
 Vowed that to Britain they'd ne'er yield.

* Rev. Mr. Russell.

That night in preparation spent,
 At dawn of day they marching went.
 They left their homes at rosy morn,
 With blanket, musket, powder horn.

Those heroes, when the work was done
 Assigned to them, beneath the sun,
 On yonder hill, in peace were laid,
 Their bones within the palisade.

Upon the scroll of deathless fame,
 Should be inscribed the honored names
 Of Windsor men, their brave compeers,
 The noble men of those dark years.

In all things, for the good of man,
 Old Windsor, she has led the van ;
 Her sons have helped to mould the State,
 In all that's noble, good, or great.

The *nation* felt their moulding powers,
 When passing through her darkest hours,
 Their influence, down the years has passed,
 And will through coming ages last.

Thy sturdy sons, whom God hath blest,
 Are known throughout the mighty west,
 From where Atlantic's billows roar,
 They're dwellers to Pacific's shore.

Thy sons returning to our State,
 If rich or poor, humble or great,
 Where'er you dwell, where'er you roam,
 Thrice welcome ever to our home.

Grandfather's chair is empty now,
 And age your father's head doth bow ;
 Your mother soon will pass away ;
 'Tis well you're home again to-day.

Our fertile fields are fresh and green,
 In nature's face God's love is seen ;
 He whispers in the passing breeze,
 Sweet words drop from these grand old trees.

Our rivers, sparkling 'neath the sun,
 Connecticut, and Farmington,
 Once, o'er their waters deep and blue,
 Floated the Indian's light canoe.

Where, 'neath these genial northern skies,
Save here, was Indians' paradise ?
Say ! where do brighter waters gleam
Beneath the sun, than yonder stream ?

Partridge and turkey did abound
Through all this Indian hunting ground,
But better now, on every plain,
We pluck the corn, and reap the grain.

Gone from the woods are buck and doe ;
No more we meet the savage foe ;
Their bones, they mingle dust with dust,
Their buried hatchets changed to rust.

How great the change that Time hath wrought,
The freedom that the years have brought ;
Our fathers sowed the seed in pain,
We garner freedom's ripened grain.

What father here can tell the son
The half a hundred years have done ?
What mighty change that steam hath wrought ?
The wisdom that the press hath taught ?

But, ah ! the peace that reigneth here,
It cost the blood of brothers dear ;
Fair maidens gave their dearest ones,
The widowed mothers gave their sons.

Weep not for those whose toils are o'er,
Sweet peace broods o'er the farther shore ;
They're done with pain and earthly strife,
Are born again to endless life.

My friends, to-day you may rejoice,
For the air rings with freedom's voice ;
Beneath our vine and fig tree's shade
We sit, with none to make afraid.

O God, let peace reign o'er this land,
All nations form a brother band ;
O'er bloody chasm let true men clasp
Their hands for aye, in friendly grasp.

And when we join our vanished ones,
O God, inspire our living sons ;
And ever guided by thy will,
May Town and Nation prosper still.

At the conclusion of the poem, the Hon. H. S. Hayden, after thanking all for their presence, and for their efforts to make this celebration the glorious celebration it was, moved "that we extend an invitation to all who shall be in the town of Windsor 100 years from to-day to celebrate, on this same spot, the second centennial of our nation's Declaration of Independence." The motion was unanimously adopted, with much enthusiasm.

The exercises were appropriately closed by singing the Doxology by the choir and the audience, and the pronouncing of the benediction by the Rev. B. Judkins. In the evening there was a fine display of fireworks upon the Green, and good music by the band.

The celebration was every way gratifying to the citizens of Windsor. The spirit of peace and good will seemed to possess all hearts, and there were no disorderly occurrences to disturb the harmony of the exercises of the day. Satisfaction was plainly pictured upon all faces, as the people parted for their several homes. May the second page of one hundred years of our country's history show an increased occasion for gratitude for our noble heritage.

Honorable mention is made of many of the first families of Windsor in that interesting and valuable address of Rev. Charles Hammond, delivered at the Tolland County Centennial Celebration, a part of which is selected, and also the notice contained in Professor Elias Loomis' Memorial,* to which the same author refers, respecting the Loomis Institute, which, in the not distant future, will form an important feature of Windsor's prosperity, and a list of soldiers in the American Revolutionary Army.

"In 1874, James C. Loomis, Hezekiah B. Loomis, Osbert B. Loomis, H. Sidney Hayden and his wife, and John Mason Loomis were constituted a corporate body by the name of the

* The result of all my labors is a catalogue of 8686 persons bearing the Loomis name and believed to be descended from Joseph Loomis of Windsor, besides the names of 4682 persons who have intermarried with them. There are not many new names to be looked for except in the new States of the West.—*Elias Loomis' Genealogy of the Loomis Family.*

Loomis Institute. This Institute is designed for the gratuitous education of persons of the age of twelve years and upwards, and is to be located on the original homestead of Joseph Loomis on "The Island," in Windsor, Conn.

This homestead is situated on elevated ground on the west bank of the Connecticut river, and commands an uncommonly fine view of the river and valley. Since the death of Joseph Loomis this site has always been in the possession of some one of his lineal descendants to the present time. It is the design of the corporators to do what they can to endow this Institution, and in this they desire the coöperation of all the Loomis family, that the Institution may become a lasting monument to the memory of Joseph Loomis, and a blessing to the town which he selected for his refuge from the annoyances to which Puritans were subjected in the mother country."

A List of Soldiers in the American Revolutionary Army, who were Natives of or Enlisted from the Town of Windsor, Conn.

Elisha Allyn,	Henry Barzilla,	Samuel Brownson,
Moses Allyn,	Ezra Beckett,	Thomas Burr,
George Allyn,	Ezra Beckwith,	Thomas (?) Burn,
Solomon Allyn, Jr.,	Elihu Benton,	Cornelius Cahale,
John Allyn,	Jonathan Bidwell,	Daniel Cammarum,
John Allyn, Jr.,	Cornelius Bissell,	Patrick Canny,
Joseph Allyn,	David Bissell, Jr.,	Benjamin Case, Jr.,
Joseph Alford,	Elias Bissell,	Gideon Case,
Samuel Andrus,	Eben'r Fitch Bissell,	Benoni Case,
David Barber,	Daniel Bissell,	Frederick Case,
David Barber, Jr.,	Jedediah Blanchard,	Oliver Case,
Reuben Barber,	Daniel Bogue,	Isaac Chandler,
Shubael Barber,	John Brister,	Levi Chandler,
Jerijah Barber,	Elias Brown,	Frederick Chapman,
Ethan Barker,	Ezra Brown,	Levi Carter,
Joseph Barnard,	Jude C. Brown,	Ezekiel Clark,
Joseph Barnard, Jr.,	Samuel Brown, Jr.,	Ezekiel Clark, Jr.,
Samuel Barnard,	Justus Brown,	Benjamin Clark,
Stephen Barnes,	Michael Brown,	George Clark,
Abel Barnes,	Daniel Brown,	Solomon Clark,

Daniel Clark,	Joseph Eggleston,	Abel Griswold.
Elias Clark,	Nathaniel Eggleston,	Abiel Griswold,
David Clark,	Isaac Eggleston,	Moses Griswold,
Moses Clark,	Timothy Eggleston,	Friend Griswold,
Louis Colton,	James Eggleston,	Geo. Griswold, 3d,
David Colvin,	David Eggleston,	Thomas Griswold,
Jabez Colt,	Jonathan Eggleston,	Jonah Griswold,
Shubael Cook,	Samuel Eggleston,	Noah Griswold,
Richard Cook,	Thomas Eggleston,	Alexander Griswold,
Abner Cook,	Phinehas Elmer,	Nathaniel Griswold,
William Cook,	James Enos,	William Hall,
Abel Cook,	Erasmus Enos,	Philip Halsey,
Eli Cook,	Roger Enos,	Hamond, (colored,)
Timothy Cook,	Abijah Enos,	Hezekiah Hayden,
Joel Cook,	James Enos,	Thomas Hayden,
William Cook, Jr.,	Frank, (colored,)	Nathaniel Hayden,
Samuel Coy,	Hezekiah Filley,	Ezra Hayden,
Elias Crow,	Moses Filley,	Oliver Hayden,
Timothy Coon,	Jonah Filley,	Levi Hayden,
Samson Cuff,	Mark Filley, (?)	Jabez Haskell,
David Daniels,	John Filer,	Thomas Haze,
Burdon Davies,	Horace Filer,	Thaddeus Hide,
William Davies,	Norman Filer,	Theophilus Hide,
Isaac Day,	Stephen Fosbury,	Elijah Hill,
John Day,	Zachariah Foster,	John Hill,
Joel Denslow,	Obadiah Fuller,	Reuben Hill,
Martin Denslow,	Eliakim Gaylord,	Matthias Holcomb,
Elihu Denslow.	Eleazar Gaylord,	Elijah Holcomb,
Elijah Denslow,	David Gibbs,	Joseph Holcomb,
Samuel Denslow, Jr.,	Rufus Gibbs,	Matthew Holcomb,
Reuben Denslow,	Samuel Gibbs,	Joseph Holcomb,
Elias De Wolf,	John Gibbs,	Daniel Holliday, Sr.,
Luke Dickens,	Abel Gillet,	Daniel Holliday, Jr.,
Lory Drake,	Daniel Gillet,	Daniel Hooker,
Abiel Drake,	Jonah Gillet,	Alvin Hoolbod,
Augustine Drake,	Aaron Gillet,	Asa Hoskins,
Ebenezer Drake,	Daniel Gillet,	Pere Hoskins,
David Donalds,	Elihu Griswold,	Timothy Hoskins,
Philemon Duset,	Iaaac Griswold,	Zebulon Hoskins,
John Duset,	Edward Griswold,	Elijah Hoskins,
Edward, (negro.)	Phinehas Griswold,	Alvin Hurlburt,

Alexander Hurlburt,	Asa Moore,	Jonathan Pomeroy,
William Jacobs,	Philander Moore,	Daniel Porter,
Reuben King,	Benjamin Moore,	Daniel Porter, Jr.,
John Keaton,	James Morris,	Allyn Prior,
Obed Lamberton, Jr.,	William Munro,	Abner Prior,
William Lamberton,	Alpheus Munsell,	Abner Prior, Jr.,
Nath'l Lamberton,	Israel Negus,	Dr. Primus Prior,
Ahaliab Latimer,	Moses Niles,	Providence Prior,
George Latimer,	Alvin Owen,	Plymouth Prior,
Amos Lawrence,	William Parsons,	Daniel Rice,
Amos Lawrence, Jr.,	Thomas Parsons,	Peter Roberts,
Oliver Lee,	Peletiah Parsons,	Clark Roberts,
Stephen Loomis, Jr.,	Dr. Isaac Phelps,	John Roberts,
George Loomis,	Isaac Phelps, Jr.,	Paul Roberts,
Jonathan Loomis,	Daniel Phelps,	John Rowel,
Eliphalet Loomis,	Alexander Phelps,	Silas Rowley,
Gideon Loomis,	Job Phelps,	Philander Rowley,
Watson Loomis,	Cornelius Phelps,	Job Rowley,
Ephraim Loter,	John Phelps,	David Rowland,
Levi Loveland,	Timothy Phelps, Jr.,	Sherman Rowland,
Ephraim Lovewell,	Elisha Phelps,	John Russell,
Andrew Mack,	Austin Phelps,	Cornelius Russell,
Joseph Marsh,	Elijah Phelps,	William Seymour,
Samuel Marshall, Jr.,	Enoch Phelps,	Joseph Seymour,
Elijah Marshall,	Daniel Phelps,	Rememb'ce Sheldon,
Elisha Marshall,	Jesse Phelps,	Elijah Smith,
Elihu Mather,	John Phelps,	Timothy Soper,
Increase Mather,	Oliver Phelps,	Ambrose Sperry,
Samuel Mather,	Josiah Phelps,	Robert Starks,
Dr. Timothy Mather,	Seth Phelps,	Ashbel Stiles,
John Mather,	LaunceLOT Phelps,	Elijah Stoughton,
Neil McLean, Jr.,	William Phelps,	William Taylor,
Joseph Millard,	Phinehas Picket,	Stephen Taylor,
John Miller,	Aaron Pinney,	Isaac Thrall,
Roswell Miller,	Jonathan Pinney,	David Thrall,
Elijah Mill, Jr.,	Noah Pinney,	Willliam Thrall, Jr.,
(?) Elisha Mills,	Phylaster Pinney,	Giles Thrall,
Oliver Mitchell,	Juda Pinney,	Timothy Troy,
Simon Moore, Jr.,	Martin Pinney,	Thomas Vanduzer,
Elisha Moore,	Nathaniel Pinney,	Patteshal Wakefield,
Asa Moore,	John Pinney,	Jesse Wall,

Isaac Wardwell,	Robert Westland,	Calvin Wilson,
Ebenezer Wardwell,	Amos Westland, Jr.,	Abiel Wilson,
Loonis Warner,	John Wheeler,	Samuel Wilson,
George Warner,	John Whiting,	Moses Wilson,
Timothy Webster,	John Wilson,	Joel Wilson,
Zephaniah Webster,	John Winchell,	James Wilson,
Micah Webster,	Joseph Winchell,	Oliver Woodward,
Ebenezer Welch,	Joseph Wing,	Eben'r Woolworth,
Lemuel Welch,	Samuel Wing,	Abel Wright,
Gershon West,	Moses Wing,	Ebenezer Young.
Joseph Westland,	Roger Wing,	

[From Published Report]

THE FOURTH ON TOLLAND HILLS.

“A COUNTY CELEBRATION.—The Rev. Charles Hammond of Munson, Mass., a native of Union and at one time a clergyman of Tolland, next read the address. After an introduction showing the value of local histories of the heroic age of America, and the necessity of preserving the specific facts in the careers of these towns from the all-corroding tooth of time, the orator went on to discuss the events having special relation to the transaction that was now being celebrated. It was to be remembered that Connecticut was of far greater relative importance one hundred years ago than now, being second in power and influence only to Virginia and Massachusetts. New York was then a frontier colony, and the country one hundred miles west of Albany was a howling wilderness. Singular as it may seem Connecticut was then called the provision colony and was largely relied upon during the revolution to feed the army. The soldiers who went to the war were mostly the sons of the founders of the towns. These founders came chiefly from the Connecticut valley and the counties of eastern Massachusetts. If it was true that God sifted three kingdoms to plant New England with choice seed, he was persuaded that it was by some such process that it happened that emigrants of the oldest towns of the oldest colonies of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Connecticut were moved to found these towns. Windsor gave both land and men

and Tolland and Ellington were incorporated from her large domain. Land companies were formed in Windsor and Hartford by the leading citizens to purchase wilderness lands, to organize townships and sell their proprietary rights, or to become settlers themselves. In this way Tolland, Ellington, Willington, Stafford, Union, Bolton, and other towns were settled. On the proprietary records of these towns we find the name of Governor Joseph Talcott of Hartford, a grantee of Stafford; Governor Roger Wolcott of Windsor, a grantee of Willington; Henry and Simon Wolcott of Windsor, grantees of Willington. Jonathan Ellsworth and Captain John Ellsworth of Windsor, were grantees of Tolland and Union and great uncles of Chief Justice Ellsworth. Captain John was the brother-in-law of President Edwards. Simon Chapman, Joshua Mills, and William Eaton, of Windsor, were grantees and emigrants of Tolland, where their sons, Samuel Chapman, Solomon Mills, and Solomon Eaton, became distinguished citizens and devoted patriots. From Windsor, too, came Benjamin Rockwell to Stafford, Samuel Rockwell to Tolland, and the Loomis family, whose memorials have been published by Professor Elias Loomis of Yale, himself a citizen of Willington. From Windsor also came the Strongs of Union, Stafford, Bolton, and Coventry, the great family of the Connecticut valley. Joseph Trumbull, father of the governor, came from Suffield to Lebanon, and Benoni, his brother, father of Benjamin Trumbull, the historian of the State, and of the Rev. John of Watertown, the latter the author of *McFingal*, to Hebron. Noah and Nathaniel Grant came from Windsor, and became Tolland proprietors. The historic Matthew Grant, whom Horace Bushnell calls a fellow scion of Putnam, but whom Sidney Stanley thinks a myth, came from this stock."

To MESSRS. HAYDEN, LOOMIS, PHELPS, CASE, AND DUNCAN,
COMMITTEE:

Gentlemen :—With pleasure I acknowledge your invitation to the "Centennial Picnic," in Windsor.

It is the more agreeable, because "all the inhabitants of Windsor" are requested to participate therein. This, like the charter of our institutions (which declares equality the birthright of all) makes no distinction of race, sect, social position, or political partialities.

Such was the character of the early celebration of our National natal day, and most fortunate would it be if it should be revived and perpetuated.

In later years the observance of the day has been too much neglected, and when observed, instead of commemorating the great event of a Nation's birth, the occasion has too often been perverted to partisan schemes, or to a pharisaical self-laudation, unbecoming to our intelligent and enlightened people.

The day should be devoted to an honest review of the past and consideration of the present, and to such social intercourse as tends to mollify if not remove partisan and other asperities. In other words, its observance should be such as to contribute to our intellectual and moral culture, and quicken us to a faithful discharge of all our political duties.

The men, and women too, who effected our emancipation from kingly rule, displayed such devotion, self-denial, and long suffering, as is rarely witnessed.

Of our fundamental principles, they gave us all that is worth having. They made and left for us free institutions, based not upon mere toleration, but upon absolute, "unalienable rights." When I say us, I mean all who are or shall become American citizens, whether by the accident of birth, by choice, or by forced exile.

By our constitutions, National and State, we are a cosmopolitan people; or, as is sometimes said, this country is the asylum for the oppressed of all nations. We have been cosmopolitan from the first. Our independence was not achieved by citizens of this country alone. To this catholic fact must be credited much of our present material power and importance. All the various national characteristics thus brought together must and do in due time assimilate. Like the ceaseless action of the ocean's waves upon the pebbles on its shore,

this process removes many strong corners and angular points of ignorance and prejudice. It also quickens the intellect, increases knowledge, stimulates enterprise, and awakens laudable ambition.

The civilized world admits that in all pertaining to physical greatness and power, we, as a people, have advanced with giant strides.

But we should remember that in the same time other countries have made great progress—that in the greatest of our achievements, we have succeeded only by the aid of capital and labor from other peoples, and that in our expanse of territory and diversity of climate, we have the means for achieving a greatness which none of the other nations possess.

Whilst we may indulge in a modest complacency at our physical progress during the last century, it is neither wise nor becoming to be vain-glorious, or vaunt too much “spread-eagleism.” Sometimes at least, “pride goeth before a fall.”

There is a dark side to our picture, which should not be overlooked.

On an occasion like this, the entire field should be surveyed to find the exact truth. We should close our eyes to nothing having relation to a government of freedom and equality for ourselves and our successors.

It is well by comparison, to see whether we have or have not maintained in their purity all the fundamental political principles and maxims framed and transmitted to us by the great and patriotic men of the revolution.

They reversed the maxim that rulers are such “by the grace of God,” and proclaimed that all their just powers are derived from, and that they are the servants of, the people.

Is this practically true now? Theoretically it is true, and will be, so long as there are people to be flattered and cajoled by unscrupulous politicians and demagogues. But is it true that all office-holders do nothing except what the people have deputed them to do; or that they deport themselves as the servants of and trustees for the people? Do they first and at all times seek to maintain the rights and protect the interests of the people? If not, they should be cast out, and branded as traitors.

Again, every reflecting person knows that a government of freedom and equality is necessarily based upon public virtue, and that without such it cannot be maintained.

Public virtue is neither more nor less than aggregated private virtue; individual truthfulness, honesty, and integrity.

Within the last few years we have had conclusive proofs that there are public officials who are neither truthful nor honest: men who have sought office as a means for wronging, not serving the people: men who, if not themselves thieves, have complacently encouraged or permitted their subordinates and associates to steal.

I say this in no partisan sense: such men will attach themselves to any party and watch for their opportunities. The important question is, whether there is a public virtue which will visit such with the scorn and punishment which they merit.

It has been said that, as a rule, the man elected to an office is the equal of his constituents in virtue. This much is certain, that when the people elect an official who is either incompetent or corrupt, that act indicates either a lack of honest intelligence or a besotted partisan prejudice which blinds them to their true interests and duty.

If unbiased reason and true independent manhood were freely exercised by every well-meaning elector in the discharge of his duty, his vote would always be cast for a man both honest and capable—and few would be placed where they could steal or squander the people's property.

When men excuse, extenuate, or apologize for a corrupt official, with or without the plea of party necessity, we may safely conclude that with like opportunities they too would be corrupt.

To steal or squander public money, whether of the general government or of the least municipal organization, is a robbery of the people as individuals. Every cent thereof has to be made up from their individual possessions or their productive labor, and the laborer always is the greatest sufferer.

If this truth was better understood and appreciated, our people would not submit to such breaches of official trust

with the indifference now manifest. The remedy is with the people. The ballot is the only means by which we can maintain our freedom and equality and protect property.

To use the ballot rightly on all occasions is a serious and solemn duty, which should be discharged as carefully and scrupulously as if a religious duty, which in reality it may be deemed.

Its use should be well considered in all its bearings as to principles and men, without passion or prejudice.

It is far better that votes be cast for a worthy candidate, though unsuccessful, than for one whom the voter deems unworthy.

Such a course of manly independence would soon deprive selfish politicians of their vocation, and secure to the people more competent and honest candidates, from the highest to the lowest.

There is too much machinery in our political action—too many self-constituted engineers, who with feigned modesty relieve the people from all care of their own rights and interests, and make them foot the bills without a question. They are crafty and unscrupulous; it is the study of their lives to delude and deceive the dear people by appeals to their vanity, passions, prejudices, fears, or venality; and the most detestable of all men is he who for money or favor sells his vote.

That they so often succeed by their flatteries and falsehoods is not creditable to our intelligence. If the institutions of which we so much boast and profess to prize are to be preserved, the people must take the matter in hand, must give better consideration and more attention to their individual political rights and duties, and must exact strict honesty and fidelity from all public officials.

Nor can that be done too soon. Our political fabric, though not assailed openly, is every day being undermined by ambition, venality, and corruption.

Whilst I do not absolutely despair, I do feel that the apathy of the people, their seeming not to appreciate the dangers which are now so manifest, their hesitation to speak of official crimes by their right names, or even admit their existence,

present a doubtful if not a gloomy future. This has led me to write what I have, meaning not to pen a word which can justly be said to be partisan or local. If anything herein shall give rise to a new thought, or revive an old one, with a single individual, and quicken him to his political duties, I shall not have written in vain.

Your obedient servant,

F. E. MATHER.

NEW YORK, June 30, 1876.

[From Stiles' History of Ancient Windsor.]

No town in New England can boast a worthier ancestry than Ancient Windsor. In social position, intellectual culture, sincere and fervent piety and sterling integrity of character, here settlers were equaled by few and surpassed by none. They were not mere random adventurers seeking some fairy Utopia, and bound together by flimsy bonds of selfish interest, but a high-minded, large-hearted Christian brotherhood, selected with consummate tact and rare judgment from the wealthiest and most cultivated counties of England, by the master mind of the Rev. John White, who, when he saw them set sail from Plymouth harbor, felt that he was casting forth upon the waters precious bread which with God's blessing was to enrich and beautify the ends of the earth. There was Warham, a "famous preacher," and Maverick, with a reputation equal to his years. There was Wolcott, whose ancestral antecedents, wealth and personal character would have commanded respect in any community, and Ludlow, with legal abilities and ideas far in advance of the age in which he lived; Mason, also, with a reputation among the best warriors of the continent. Allyn, Gaylord, Marshall, Mathers, Niles, Newburys, Phelps, Rockwell, and others, all picked men, each possessing some trait or valuable quality essential to the welfare of the whole community. Woman, too, was there, with her sustaining and cheering influence, herself upheld by that deep current of religious faith which underlies the character of her sex. And in every heart, to a degree which we perhaps can never experience, and therefore can never fully understand, dwelt that glorious light of Christian love and truth which maketh free. It sustained them in the hour of trial; it humbled them in the hour of prosperity; it regulated their every action; it developed the exercise of every virtue and talent; it softened the thousand nameless little asperities of individual character and social life, and thus contributed to the perfect and harmonious working of the whole social polity. Such was the character of the first generation.

Ancient Windsor formerly covered an area of some forty-six square miles; but by the separation of several towns from its limits, has been greatly shorn of its fair proportions; and is now bounded north by Windsor Locks, east by Connecticut river, south by Hartford and Bloomfield, and west by Bloomfield and East Granby. Its surface may be considered as divided into three plains or levels—the first, rich broad meadow land, skirted by the river; west of this, a higher level, on which the village is mainly built, and west of this a still higher elevation, covered by woodland, &c., extending back towards the bounds of

Bloomfield and East Granby. The soil is variable, but all of it is good. New England contains no pleasanter town or society than Old Windsor.

We have made several references to Dr. H. R. Stiles' History of Ancient Windsor. Those residing here and others in more distant parts are under great obligations to Dr. Stiles for this history of the town. Although it contains some errors, (unavoidable,) especially in the genealogies of families, yet when we remember that this was not his residence and that he had other engagements, it is a matter of surprise that a volume of this size should be so generally correct.

In closing this report of our first Centennial, your Committee would express their thanks "to all the habitants" for their very generous and general liberality. We intimated that we required three hundred dollars for needed expenditures; you responded by sending us four hundred, all of which has been used under the direction of the Committee.

WINDSOR, August 8, 1876.



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